laws pending adjudication against Reliance Industries;

(b) what is the break-up of amounts involved case-wise;

(c) what are the details of demands confirmed by adjudicating authorities, case-wise; and

(d) what action Government are taking for realising the disputed amount in which courts have granted stay orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

P.S.U. cases with Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

2317. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of public Sector units that have been declared sick by Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during the past five years;

(b) the number of such cases that are pending before the BIFR; and

(c) the number of cases that could not be declared as sick by the BIFR in the past five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that with the extension of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to Government companies in December, 1991, references in respect of 60 Government companies have been registered with BIFR as on 30-11-1992. Out of these, 27 cases have been declared sick and one case was dismissed as not maintainable. The remaining 32 cases are under process as per the provisions of the Act.

Withholding of Non-Salary Payments in Central Government Offices in West Bengal

2318. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments have issued any circular for withholding non-salary payments in Central Government offices located in West Bengal;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and also the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is confined to West Bengal only or some other States have also been sent similar circular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Investigation into property held by Ex-Chairman of Banks

2319. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations have been conducted by CBI and/or any other agency to locate directly owned and/or 'benami' real/properties held and acquired during last three years by the deceased Chairman of National Housing Bank, Shri Pherwani, deceased Chairman of Canara Bank, Shri Ratnakar, ex-Chairman of UCO Bank, Shri Margabandhu, ex-Chairman of Canara Bank, Shri N. D. Prabhu, ex-Chairman of Allahabad Bank Shri Wadhwa and ex-Planning Commission Member, Shri V. Krishnamurthi whose direct involvement in the Securities Scam is well-exposed;

(b) what are the respective estimated values, and

(c) whether Government have taken any action or contemplate taking action for attachment of the concerned properties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that searches were carried out in the premises of Late Shri M. J. Pherwani, Late Shri B. Ratnakar, Shri K. Margabanthu and Shri V. Krishnamurthy. Searches, besides incriminating material relevant for

the bank scam and related cases, also yielded the following assests :—

Name	Assets
Late Shri M.J. Pherwani	Rs. 13,70,902·01 (includes bank balance, fixed deposits and shares).
Late Shri B. Ratnakar	Rs. 1,64,10,950.00. Besides, one HVS Paradise appartment, Two Garadi Apartments and Four shops in Raheja Arcade in Bangalore.
Shri K. Margabandhu	Rs. 52 lakhs.
Shri V. Krishnamurthy	Three residential flats and one commercial flat.

C.B.I. has not conducted searches at the premises of S/Shri N.D Prabhu and R.L. Wadhwa

(c) Action in accordance with the law shall be taken only after a prima facie case for attachment is established by the investigating agencies.

Higher Lending rates to Small Scale Units by Banks

2320. SHRI KRISHN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lending rates of some of the nationalised banks are higher for small scale and tiny units as compared to the lending rates of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring the lending rates of nationalised banks at par with Reserve Bank of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that lending rates of all the banks are governed by the directives of interest rates on advances issued by it from time to time. The present rate applicable to bank loans w.e.f. 9th October, 1992 are as follows :

(Rate of interest)

Size of limit	(% per annum)
Upto and inclusive of Rs. 7,500/-	11.5
Over Rs. 7,500/- and upto Rs. 25,000/-	13.5
Over Rs. 25,000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs	16.5
Over Rs. 2 lakhs	18.0 (minimum)

However, concessions have been given in the case of term loans to small scale industries for loans above Rs. 25,000/- where lower rates of interest have been prescribed. The present rates applicable are as under :

(% per annum)

Size of the limit	For SSI, Agriculture and transport operators upto 2 vehicles	For other purposes
Over Rs. 25000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs . .	15.0	16.5
Over Rs. 2 lakhs	15.0 (minimum)	18.0 (minimum)